*HAMLET* TAKE HOME ESSAY – Due Friday, December 20, 2019

Select **one** of the following prompts and write an excellent paper of **3 full pages**. Follow the conventions of MLA format. Remember to think about what Shakespeare is doing as opposed to what the characters are doing. You must use quotes. Quotes for Shakespeare are act, scene, and line (III, ii, 298-299). This essay will be graded using the new AP English Literature Rubric found on my website.

1. Discuss the importance of appearance vs. reality in *Hamlet*.

Consider the roles of the ghost and/or the players. How does this concept contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole?

1. Microanalysis: Select a small section of the play. This could be part of a scene (2-3 pages in length) or a soliloquy to study carefully. You will be looking for imagery, sentence structure, diction, word choice, etc, plus analyzing how the section fits into the work as a whole. What does the speech or section contribute to the work as a whole?

1. Discuss the importance in *Hamlet* of **one** of the following: Ophelia, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, the ghost of Hamlet senior, Polonius, Fortinbras, or Gertrude. Do not just write about what these characters do or how they figure in the plot. Discuss how an attention to them illuminates issues of central importance to the play as a whole.